

SUMMER 2001

Intelenet Commission



ONE-ON-ONE WITH RAY EWICK, DIRECTOR, INDIANA STATE LIBRARY



Brad Wochomurka, a DePauw University journalism student on a summer internship with Intelenet interviewed Ray Ewick in July. Ray is Director of the Indiana State Library and a member of the state's Enhanced Data Access Review Committee (EDARC) that oversees the state's Web portal, accessIndiana. They discussed the state libraries' public access terminals and ways these computers address Indiana's "digital divide." Following is an excerpt of that interview.



Brad: I understand that by November of this year, there will be about 1,000 public access terminals (public computers with Internet access) added to libraries all over the state. What is the role of the Gates Foundation in providing public access terminals?



Ray: We are currently working with 189 (out of 424) buildings that are eligible for grants at some level. The Gates initiative was to place computers in every public library in the most economically disadvantaged areas of the country. If a building served an area that was in excess of 10 percent poverty, it was eligible for a cash grant. There were 189 buildings in Indiana that qualified for cash grants totaling \$3,110,495. Under the Gates Program, each terminal must be connected to the Internet and must be used for public access. So far, 754 computers, 95 servers and 192 laser printers have been purchased for the 189 eligible buildings.

Each computer comes with about \$2,000 in software. Some of these software applications include the full Microsoft Office suite, Magic School Bus educational games for kids, and Encarta Encyclopedia. All of this is backed up with two years of training. The training includes help-desk and on-site training. Among those trained are six graduate students from Indiana University graduate library school to provide back-up service to librarians around the state.

Another 164 buildings qualified for partial grants if they wished to purchase the computers themselves. Using Universal Service discounts obtained by working with Intelenet, about \$450,000 was used to buy one terminal each for the 164 libraries that qualified.

Libraries have begun adding public access terminals configured completely in the Spanish language. So far, about 45 Spanish language computers have been purchased in areas of the state with high Hispanic populations.

Brad: How do library public access terminals help our state bridge the digital divide?

Ray: Gates Foundation studies have found that people on the other side of the digital divide (the elderly, people without computers, and economically disadvantaged individuals) are using computers at their local libraries.

The attempt now by Intelenet, with its state partners, is to provide Hoosiers with more opportunities to interact with their government. Right now, popular services include license plate renewals, I-File and government information searches. But other services are seeing increasing demand. Where will our citizens go if they find themselves on the other side of the digital divide? This is one reason it's so important that public libraries provide computers that are connected to the Internet.

Brad: What is your opinion of the current status of the digital divide in Indiana and what is being done to close the gap?

Ray: I think the gap is closing. There is a relationship between the "divide" and income levels and a relationship between the "divide" and urban and rural areas. I believe, though that it's as big a problem in inner-city urban areas as it is in rural areas. I think a great deal of the divide is related to educational attitude. Using computers and new technology is somewhat like learning a foreign language. People do it only when they're motivated in some way.

If you don't know Japanese, for example, you probably won't take the time to learn it until there's something in it for you. Similarly, we're seeing more and more people learn the language of the Internet because we're putting things they want online. We're saving them time, and we're saving them money.

To find out more about public access terminals in your area and the Gates Foundation grants, please contact the Indiana State Library at 317.232.3689.



Ray Ewick, Director, Indiana State Library

INTELENET CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

It turns out that 1986 was a very good year. The Statue of Liberty, America's icon of freedom and democracy, turned 100 years old. Halley's Comet swept past Earth for the first time in 76 years. An estimated 7 million people joined together for "Hands Across America," forming a human chain from New York to Los Angeles to raise money for the homeless. And the United States first observed as a national holiday the birthday of the late Martin Luther King, Jr.

Closer to home, 1986 marked the beginning of innovation in telecommunications as the Indiana General Assembly passed legislation creating the Intelenet Commission.



Let them eat cake! Jerry Sullivan, Intelenet's Executive Director, and Chuck Coffey, Governor's Representative to the Intelenet Commission, attempt to blow out birthday candles.

This July, Intelenet celebrated 15 years of innovation and success. "We've come a long way since those early Steering Committee days following the 1984 divestiture of the Bell System, when the Indiana Telecommunications Network (ITN) was no more than an idea on paper," said Senator Lindel O. Hume, a 1986 Intelenet Steering Committee member and current Intelenet Commissioner. "Few had foreseen the sweeping advances in technology and cooperation that have made possible such widespread connectivity and our Internet portal."

Indeed, the state formed Intelenet to aggregate the state's diverse telecommunications needs among its government

SPOTLIGHT ON USF

July 1st marks the first day of Funding Year 4 for Universal Service discounts. Although Funding Commitment Letters (FCLs) from the Schools and Libraries Division have not yet been received, Intelenet is working to discount bills based upon projected discounts, and will make any necessary adjustments when the official discount figures are received.

As soon as Intelenet receives the FCLs, we will mail notifications to each school and library that appears on our consortium application.

The newly passed Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) will affect schools and libraries that receive Universal Service discounts for Internet service. The law is intended to shield minors from inappropriate images on the Internet, and requires

agencies and higher education institutions. Today, virtually all the state's public schools and libraries also enjoy the data sharing and communications capabilities of a network connection to the ITN. The next steps are to assess the networking needs of local governments so they may be connected with state agencies.

"Intelenet has expanded the idea of a "Crossroads of America" in Indiana to include telecommunications," said Stan Jones, Chairman of the Intelenet Commission. "We're linking government services to Hoosiers in record numbers through the ITN and through *accessIndiana*."

The state's official Internet Web portal, *accessIndiana* (www.IN.gov), was launched in 1995, and now includes more than 175,000 pages of information and 150 interactive services.

"Our next goal is to help our state and local partners address the digital divide in Indiana," added Jones. "We want to make sure every citizen has access to the activities of state government."

Here's looking at another 15 years, Intelenet.

recipients of Universal Service Funds (USF) to certify compliance with the law before any funds are released.

To certify compliance for Funding Year 4, schools and libraries must state that they are "undertaking actions" regarding the following requirements:

1. The installation of an Internet filter (software or hardware);
2. The adoption of an Internet policy that addresses appropriate filtering; and
3. The implementation of public meetings to discuss filtering and policies.

To receive funds for Funding Year 5 (starting 1 July 2002), schools and libraries will have had to finalize implementation of the above requirements.

Intelenet is working closely with the Indiana State Library and the Indiana Department of Education to collect documentation from USF recipients certifying compliance with the new requirements so that funding will not be disrupted.

A downloadable "Certification of Undertaking Actions" is available via Intelenet's Web site at <http://www.IN.gov/intel/whatsnew/usfnews.html>. Please contact Geoff DePriest, Program Manager, Grants & USF, at 317.234.1619 with any questions or concerns, and check Intelenet's Web site for further updates.

Important Reminder: Each year schools must submit a USF Certification Letter to the Intelenet Commission. If you have not returned your Certification Letter for Funding Year 4, please contact Marcia Ping, Project Manager, USF, at 317.233.2198.

INTELENET COMMISSION ANNUAL MEETING

The history of telecommunications enjoyed a revival at this year's Intelenet Commission annual meeting, held at the Marriott Downtown on June 26th.

Jerry E. Sullivan, Executive Director, began the extended program with an overview and discussion of events in telecommunications history and how those events brought about the formation of Intelenet in 1986.

Among those in attendance were Intelenet Commissioners Senator Lindel O. Hume (D., Princeton), a 1985 Intelenet Steering Committee member, and John M. Huie, Purdue University professor who was a member of the first commission. Senator Steve Johnson (R., Kokomo) and Representative David L. Crooks (D., Washington) also attended the meeting.

The commission re-elected Stan Jones as chair, and elected Laura Larimer as vice-chair. To learn more about the Intelenet Commission, or to view the minutes of the Intelenet Commission Meeting, please visit our Web site at www.IN.gov/intel/notices/meet_minutes.html.

accessIndiana WEB NOTES

AND THE WINNER IS . . . Indiana's new license plate was unveiled at a State House ceremony on 31 May. The new plate, which will appear on passenger vehicles in 2003, was chosen by Governor Frank O'Bannon based upon citizen votes both through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) Web site at www.IN.gov/bmv/contest, and by mail. Citizens registered more than 100,000 online votes during the 10-day voting period, casting more than 40 percent of those votes for the winning design, by Douglas D. David of Indianapolis.

July is *accessIndiana* Month!



PRE-EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND CHECKS are just a click away on the Indiana State Police (ISP) Web site at www.IN.gov/isp/lch. State agencies, schools, and other not-for-profit government organizations may use this service at no charge, and start saving time and money today! The service is more widely available to businesses and the public by subscription.

SLEEPING UNDER THE STARS this summer just became easier to plan through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) State Parks & Reservoirs Web site at www.IN.gov/serv/dnr_parks_availability. Check the availability of campsites, and get your graham crackers, chocolate and marshmallows ready. Information on inns, for the less hardy and adventurous, is available here, too.

FIND OUT WHERE THE BLUEGILL ARE RUNNING and what bait to use at DNR's Fishing Report at www.IN.gov/serv/dnr_fishingreport. The Division of Fish & Wildlife also publishes information on fishing and hunting permits on their site, and provides citizens with tons of other useful information.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FSSA for winning the Civic 50 Award for the new Shelter Search application. The Family & Social Services Administration (FSSA) provides this online service to state-sponsored shelters so that staff can quickly check bed availability at other facilities when they are unable to serve a person in need. For more information about FSSA, go to www.IN.gov/fssa.

STATE WEB SITES BOLDLY GO WHERE NO SITES HAVE GONE BEFORE:

ACCESSINDIANA'S NEXT GENERATION PORTAL

Looking for information and services on the *accessIndiana* portal has just become faster and easier than sending the Starship Enterprise into deep space warp drive.

In January, the state's official Web portal, *accessIndiana* was redesigned and reorganized to focus on life events and everyday situations that face citizens and businesses. This reorganization and redesign effort is called the Next Generation Portal (www.IN.gov).

"One of our objectives is to provide the citizens of Indiana 'One State with One Voice,'" said Laura Larimer, Chief Information Officer for the state. "The Next Generation Portal is one more way we're making it faster and easier for citizens to participate in the government decisions that affect them."

One notable design feature of the Next Generation Portal is that common graphic elements have been applied to thousands of pages of information on the site. Previously, navigating the Indiana Web site proved difficult for those without a clear understanding of the services provided by state government agencies, boards and commissions. The original portal was not intuitive and there was no "common look and feel" among the various agency sites. Now, visitors to the state's Web site can move between the various agencies and still know they are within the *accessIndiana* portal.

To date, 21 state agency sites and applications have adopted the "common look and feel," and 15 more agencies are currently in the queue to be completed during August.

The state anticipates that all its government agencies will soon convert to the Next Generation Portal design. Larimer notes, "several executive branch, separately elected officials have already converted and others are in the planning stages. We are discussing redesigns with the judicial and legislative branches, as well."

Eventually, a common header graphic will be added throughout the site—another design element aimed at increasing the portal's commonality and functionality.

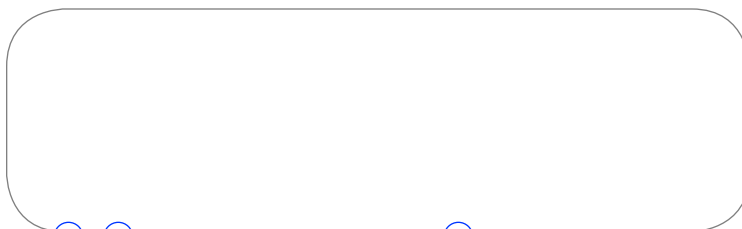
State agencies will benefit from having a common template from which to draw layout, content, organization and functionality for their sites. "The Next Generation Portal template saves the state time and money because state webmasters and designers are not reinventing the wheel each time someone updates or redesigns an agency site," said Sean Fahey, Governor O'Bannon's Executive Assistant for High Performance Government.

In 2001, visitors to the *accessIndiana* site—expected to generate around 100 million accesses—will benefit from sleeker and more comfortable navigation. Mr. Sulu, take us out of orbit. Warp factor two. And hurry.





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SUMMER 2001

INDIANA dot **GOV**
linking people to government

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